

*1984
Hobart Junior Miss
Program*



*Heidi Freckelton
1983 Indiana Junior Miss*



Kelli Hallas, 1983 Hobart Junior Miss

HOBART'S JUNIOR MISSES

Miss Nancy Holt	1970	Miss Karen Kovich	1977
Miss Sue Demmon	1971	Miss Patty McCormack	1978
Miss Nancy Wright	1972	Miss Marcia McCord	1979
Miss Mary Kay Baron	1973	Miss Cathy Steffus	1980
Miss Kathy Langbehn	1974	Miss Diane Shay	1981
Miss Maryanne Nixon	1975	Miss Jamie Lough	1982
Miss Lisa Wojihoski	1976	Miss Kelli Hallas	1983

The Spirit of Junior Miss



Coca-Cola USA and Bottlers of Coca-Cola are proud to sponsor the "Spirit of Junior Miss" scholarship awards. We salute these young ladies who embody the refreshing spirit and promise of America's youth.



JUNIOR MISS: A CAPSULE VIEW



WHAT THE JUNIOR MISS PROGRAM IS:

The America's Junior Miss program is a nationwide scholarship competition for high school senior girls conducted at the local, state and national levels. The finals are telecast over a national network each Spring or Summer from Mobile, Alabama, where the program began in 1958. The first national telecast was in 1965.

JUNIOR MISS OBJECTIVES:

The Junior Miss program seeks to recognize, reward and encourage excellence among young people by focusing attention on the constructive achievements of outstanding high school senior girls through the presentation of college scholarships and other awards to top winners.

JUNIOR MISS AWARDS:

More than \$2.5 million in scholarships and awards are presented to Junior Miss participants at the local, state and national levels each year. More than \$100,000 are awarded to the contestants in the Junior Miss national finals at Mobile each year, with a \$25,000 scholarship to the college of her choice to the winner.

JUNIOR MISS STANDARDS:

Judging standards are the same at all levels of Junior Miss competition: 15 percent for scholastic achievement; 15 percent for physical fitness; 15 percent for poise and appearance; 20 percent for creative and performing arts, and 35 percent for a judges' personal interview in which perception, a sense of values, clarity of expression, and concern and involvement in human relations are considered.

JUNIOR MISS ORGANIZATION:

America's Junior Miss Pageant, Inc. is a non-profit corporation with headquarters in Mobile, Alabama. It is governed by a board of 41 civic, business and educational leaders. Policies are administered by a staff of seven employees.

The national corporation issues franchises to organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to conduct state-level Junior Miss competitions. The state franchise holders, in turn, issue local franchises to Jaycees, service and civic groups and women's organizations to conduct local competitions. Approximately 25,000 girls take part each year.

THE JUNIOR MISS PROGRAM IS SPONSORED NATIONALLY BY:

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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE JUNIOR MISS PROGRAM



The Junior Miss national finals have been presented on prime-time network television since 1965, and superstar Michael Landon, shown here applauding the newly-selected 1977 winner Christy Moller, has been the television host and master of ceremonies more than any other entertainer. The Junior Miss program, an outgrowth of the Azalea Trail Festival in Mobile, Al., had its beginnings in 1958.

More than a quarter-of-a-century ago a group of young men in Mobile, Ala., set out to "flip the coin" of American youth, to demonstrate the constructive achievements and yearnings of young people at a time when rebellion, drugs and destruction were beginning to attract the news headlines and cameras.

The project; the America's Junior Miss program for high school senior girls.

The founders: the young men of the Mobile Junior Chamber of Commerce (the Jaycees, now).

A Mobile floral project of the JC's, the Azalea Trail festival dating back to the days before World War II, was the inspiration and forerunner to the Junior Miss program. To make the program more picturesque, high school senior girls competed for awards, and Azalea Trail "court" was selected. The court dressed in ante-bellum costumes to act as hostesses and pose for pictures among the flowers.

For their new project, the JCs revised the Azalea Trail festival to include Mobile county girls only, and "spun off" the new program, the Junior Miss competition for young women throughout the nation to recognize, reward and encourage excellence with publicity and college scholarships.

There were 18 girls competing for a total awards list of \$10,000 in scholarships the first year, 1958.

Today, the program involves thousands and thousands of high school senior girls in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. More than \$2.5 million is presented to Junior Miss contestants each year, and 200 colleges have indicated their respect for the program by contributing scholarships to Junior Misses at local, state or national levels.

Six major national corporations — Coca-Cola USA, Kraft, Hershey, Republic Airlines, Revlon and Simplicity — support the program as national sponsors.

The keystone, as it was in the beginning, is the



Although there have been changes in the format and emphasis on specific items in the stage production of the Junior Miss program in the past few years, the ideals and the judging standards have remained constant. Junior Miss is community, school and family-oriented. This latter characteristic is reflected in the photo above of Stephanie Ashmore being congratulated by her parents just after she was named America's Junior Miss for 1983.

volunteer. Today some 30,000 individuals work at the local, state and national levels to plan and conduct the Junior Miss program — the successors to the small band of JCs who launched it in the late 50s.

A non-profit corporation of 40 business, civic, religious and educational leaders governs the Junior Miss policies.

The objectives - to spotlight the constructive accomplishments and potential of our young people — are the same, and so are the judging standards. They emphasize the positive, and stress overall development of the individual, accenting character, personality, intelligence, creativity, ability in human relations, physical well-being and perception — lasting values.



Junior Miss logos through the years have reflected the life styles and the graphics fashions of the day. The first logo (top left) was soon replaced by the one featuring the banner with the words "poise, personality and promise" (top right). Then in the early 1970s, the "Emphasis on Excellence" slogan became a part of the new design (bottom left) and was carried forward in 1981 to the latest logo (bottom right).

America's Junior Misses 1958 Through 1983



STEPHANIE ASHMORE
1983 - Alabama



SUSAN HAMMETT
1982 - Mississippi



KIM SMITH
1981 - North Carolina



JULIE BRYAN
1980 - Georgia



SUE HORVATH
1979 - Pennsylvania



KIM CROSBY
1978 - Missouri



CHRISTY MOLLER
1977 - Arkansas



LENNE JO HALLGREN
1976 - Washington



JULIE FORSHEE
1975 - Arkansas



KAREN MORRIS
1974 - Wyoming



LINDA RUTLEDGE
1973 - Kansas



LYDIA HODSON
1972 - Kentucky



ARLENE STENS
1971 - New Jersey



KAREN STENWALL
1970 - Arizona



JACKIE BENINGTON
1969 - California



DEBI FAUBION
1968 - Oklahoma



ROSEMARY DUNAWAY
1967 - Arkansas



DIANE WILKINS
1966 - Wisconsin



PATRICE GAUNDER
1965 - Michigan



LINDA FELBER
1964 - Washington



DIANE SAWYER
1963 - Kentucky



JEAN LESLIE ALLEN
1962 - Rhode Island



MARY FRAN LUECKE
1961 - Missouri



MAUREEN SULLIVAN
1960 - Connecticut



JUDI HUMPHREY
1959 - Pennsylvania



PHYLLIS WHITENACK
1958 - West Virginia



Meet *Lisa Kleypas,* author.

This Junior Miss is a college freshman and has already written a novel.

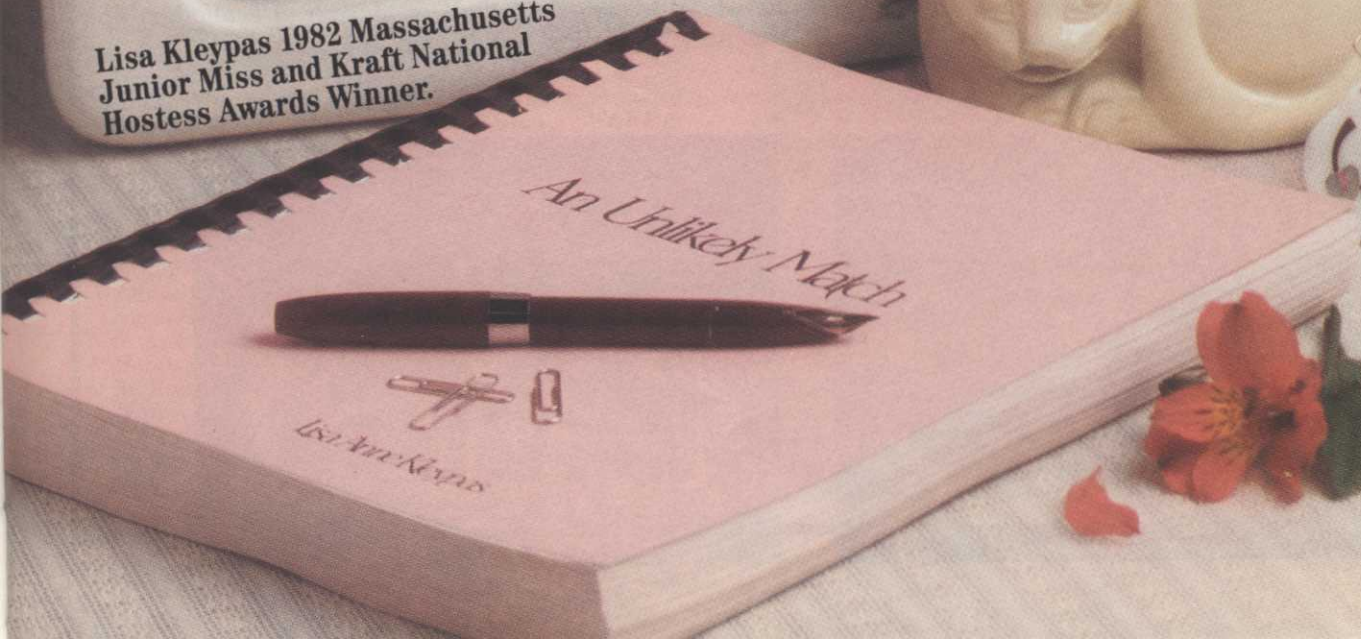
As the Kraft Hostess Awards Winner, she's a talented young woman, so typical of every Junior Miss.

Each shows, in her own way, that she's a doer, an achiever and a leader.

At Kraft, we offer the encouragement and support these young women deserve, through our year-round support of the America's Junior Miss and Kraft Hostess Awards scholarship programs. By rewarding her enthusiasm and accomplishments, we hope Lisa can inspire other young women to set their goals and broaden their achievements.



Lisa Kleypas 1982 Massachusetts
Junior Miss and Kraft National
Hostess Awards Winner.



An Unlikely Match

Lisa Kleypas



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JUNIOR MISS JUDGING STANDARDS



Junior Miss judging standards and ideals are universal, based on qualities and characteristics - lasting values — that make up the entire individual. The basis of selection and the format are the same at the local, state and national levels, emphasizing excellence in scholarship, personality, physical well-being, creativity and in human relations. Half of the judging procedures are "behind the scenes," in scholastic achievement and the judges interview. Onstage presentations make up the other 50 per cent of the judging — physical fitness, poise and appearance, and creative and performing arts.

JUDGES INTERVIEW 35%

In a 10 minute interview and discussion session with each Junior Miss, the judges panel looks for perception, a sense of values, clarity of expression, concern and ability in human relations.

SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT 15%

A panel of qualified educators review and rate transcripts of grades and scores of scholastic tests and college entrance examinations.

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS 20%

Judging is based on originality, technical ability, appropriateness of selection and costume, stage presence during performance of a stage presentation of a vocal, instrumental, painting, dance, etc.

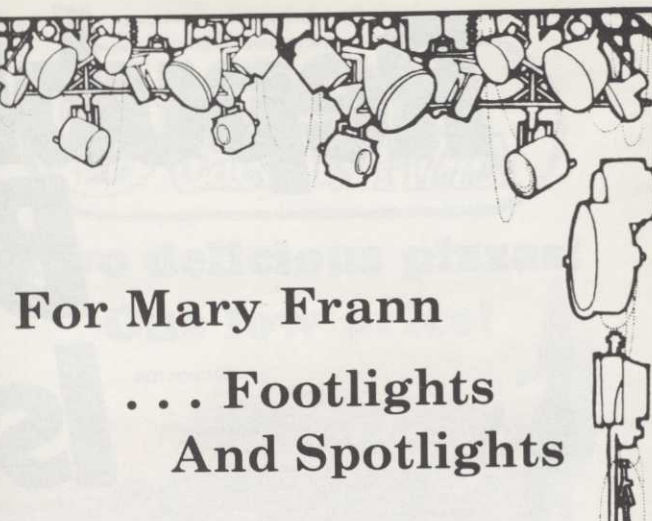
POISE AND APPEARANCE 15%

Grace, grooming, poise, posture and carriage in evening attire is considered along with appearance, coordination and composure.

PHYSICAL FITNESS 15%

Coordination, stamina, agility, posture and carriage in sports attire are considered in an overall evaluation of health and physical well-being.





For Mary Frann ... Footlights And Spotlights

Mary Frann, America's Junior Miss of 1961 (picture at right), has been involved in the world of spotlights, footlights and cameras since she began dancing lessons when she was five. She stepped before the television camera while still in high school, doing commercials for "The St. Louis Hop," a local contemporary TV dance show. With her Junior Miss scholarship, Mary Frann studied drama at Northwestern University, and was a television news reporter before beginning her career as an actress. Currently she is starring with Bob Newhart and is shown above (top, center) in the role of Joanna Loudon with other members of the "Newhart" cast.



Mary Frann (in 1976 photo, left, and 1983, right), made her Hollywood debut in 1968 with James Whitmore in the series, "My Friend Tony." After a period on Broadway, she resumed television work in the "Return to Peyton Place" series and for four years starred as Amanda Peters in the daytime drama, "Days of Our Lives." In addition, guest appearances included "Rockford Files," "Mary Tyler Moore Show," "WKRP in Cincinnati," "Fantasy Island," and "Darkroom."

Continuing her active interest in the Junior Miss program., Mary Frann helped celebrate the Silver Anniversary national finals in Mobile with other former winners and television host Michael Landon. Front, left to right, are Lenne Jo Hallgren Crum - 1976, Susan Hammett - 1982, Linda Rutledge - 1973, Maureen Sullivan Collins - 1960; and standing, Phyllis Whitenack-Keiter - 1958, Lydia Hodson Copeland - 1972, Julie Bryan - 1980, Julie Forshee Thurber - 1975, Kim Smith - 1981, Mary Frann - 1961, Rosemary Dunaway Tribble - 1967, and Debi Faubion - 1968.



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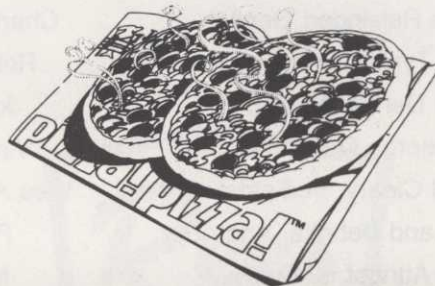
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Parents: Dale and Gwen Clapp
 Hobbies: Softball, Volleyball, Singing, Dancing,
 Reading.
 Activities: Student Council, French Club,
 Booster Club.
 College Choice: Institute of Court Reporting



ANGIE FORBIS

Parents: James and Betty Ritenour
 Hobbies: Dancing, Snowmobiling, Waterskiing
 Activities: Cheerleader, National Honor Society,
 Booster Club, Student Council,
 Varsity H Club
 College Choice: Indiana University
 Varsity H Club, Cheerleader, French
 Club, AFS



JULIE JAMISON

Parents: Jayne Jamison, John Jamison
 Hobbies: Dancing, Golf, Embroidery, Poetry,
 French language
 Activities: Student Council, French Club,
 Booster Club, Varsity H Club, AFS,
 Cheerleader, Basketball Manager
 College Choice: Ball State University

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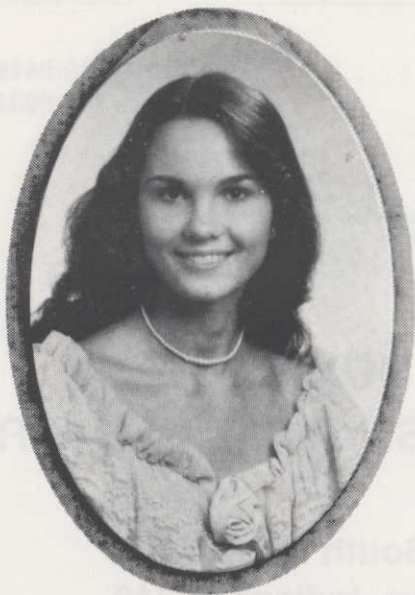
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DIANE JELACA

Parents: Dusan and Jovanka Jelaca
 Hobbies: Basketball, Football, Raquetball, Music, Travel
 Activities: Band, Basketball, Spanish Club, Booster Club, Computer Club, Health Health Careers Club
 College Choice: Indiana University Northwest or Purdue



SUZI KIRKLAND

Parents: Nancy and Bob Grodetz
 Hobbies: Biking Swimming, Jogging, Dancing, Writing poetry, Genealogy
 Activities: Booster Club, Thespian Club, Debuteens, Mat Maids, Writers Club, Auxiliary Corps, Pompons, Flags
 College Choice: Ivy Technical College



NATALIE MAVRONICLES

Parents: Charles and Linda Mavronicles
 Hobbies: Sports, Dancing, Skating, Writing, Flag Twirling, Music, Hiking
 Activities: Jr. Achievement, Wrestling Manager, Medical Careers Club, Booster Club, Mat Maids, Writers Club, Trinity Lutheran Youth League, Auxiliary Corps
 College Choice: Indiana University Northwest

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MICHELLE McDONALD

Parents: Tom McDonald, Fay McDonald
 Hobbies: Baton Twirling, Piano, Aerobics
 Activities: Student Council, Booster Club,
 Honor Society, Cheerleader,
 Math Club
 College Choice: Indiana University



KAREN NAWROCKI

Parents: Dan and Judy Nawrocki
 Hobbies: Tennis, Dancing, Reading, Basketball,
 Gymnastics, Fishing
 Activities: Booster Club, Varsity H Club,
 Tennis Team, German Club, Medical
 Career Club, AFS, SES Exchange
 Student to Germany, Basketball Team
 College Choice: Ball State University



LORI ANN OLKOSKI

Parents: Stanley and Mary Ann Olkoski
 Hobbies: Swimming, Roller Skating, Dancing
 Activities: Student Council, Booster Club,
 Varsity H Club, Debuteens, Track,
 Gymnastics
 College Choice: Indiana University

*Best wishes to
 Hobart's talented teens*

**Compliments of
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*I am pleased to support
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contestants.*

*Good luck
to each one.*

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BETTY MURRAY, Executive Secretary, Georgia Pacific Paper Co.

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ROSALIND HOWELL, Guidance Director, Hobart High School
JEFF EDWARDS, Guidance Director, Andean High School

Special thanks to Hobart Jaycees, Hickman's Marathon Station
and Hobart Business and Professional Women's Club
for their cash donations toward the scholarship awards.

1984 Candidates Pictures by Gerald Gaydos

Thanks to Hampshire Park Apartments for use of their club house.

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INTRODUCTION OF JUDGES

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS DIVISION - FIRST HALF

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Gunilla Vesterlund | 5. Tina Zimmerman |
| 2. Pam Shay | 6. Julie Jamison |
| 3. Chris Seyser | 7. Natalie Mavronicles |
| 4. Tammy Clapp | 8. Lori Olkoski |

INTERMISSION

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS DIVISION - SECOND HALF

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 9. Kara Turley | 13. Laura Patrick |
| 10. Michelle McDonald | 14. Suzi Kirkland |
| 11. Diane Jelaca | 15. Angie Forbis |
| 12. Karen Nawrocki | |

POISE AND APPEARANCE DIVISION

1983 INDIANA JUNIOR MISS - Heidi Freckelton

FAREWELL SPEECH - 1983 Hobart Junior Miss Kelli Hallas

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LAURA PATRICK

Parents: Michael and Judy Patrick

Hobbies: Volleyball, Bike Riding, Softball,

Aerobics, Dancing, Tennis,

Racquetball, Traveling, Swimming

Activities: Booster Club, Spanish Club, Varsity

H Club, Computer Club, 4-H

College Choice: Ball State University



CHRISTINE SEYSER

Parents: Rudolf and Christel Seyser

Hobbies: Volleyball

Activities: Student Council, Swim Team, Tennis

Team, Photo Club, German Club,

Computer Club, Booster Club,

Astronomy Club, Band,

SES Exchange Student

College Choice: University of Wisconsin



PAM SHAY

Parents: Thomas and Carolyn Shay

Hobbies: Dancing, Sports, Going for walks, and Fishing

Activities: Student Council, Band, Debuteens,

Rifle Corps, Pompons, French Club,

Booster Club, Softball Team, Swim

Team, Basketball Team, Tennis

Team

College Choice: Ball State University



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KARA TURLEY

Parents: Lonnie and Marion Turley

Hobbies: Gymnastics, Aerobics, Swimming,
Biking

Activities: Student Council, Booster Club, Quill
and Scroll, National Honor Society,
Newspaper, Photography Club, Bible
School Assistant, Cheerleader

College Choice: Indiana University



GUNILLA VESTERLUND

Parents: Karl and Vivi-Anne Vesterlund

Hobbies: Basketball, Volleyball, Dancing,
Knitting, Traveling, Handball,
Gymnastics

Activities: Student Council, Gymnastics Club,
Soccer Club, Handball Club, AFS
Exchange Student from Sweden

College Choice:



TINA ZIMMERMAN

Parents: Joe Zimmerman, Betty Zimmerman

Hobbies: Volleyball, Basketball, Water Skiing,
Softball, Tennis, Golf, Dancing,
Singing, Roller Skating

Activities: Pompons, Inter-scholastic Sports, Ski
Club, Track, Mixed Chorus

College Choice: Katherine Gibbs

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By Debi Faubion

YEARS AGO, there were more "Misses" than there are now. You know, Miss Teen-age America, Miss American Teen, Miss Watermelon Festival. Some have fallen by the way side for one reason or another...but America's Junior Miss — a program that recognizes high school seniors and rewards them with college scholarships — is still going strong.

When I was an 18-year-old senior at Norman High School in Oklahoma, the only "Miss" title that seemed appropriate for me was "Miss-take." I was too tall, too thin and studied too much. Luckily, I thought, there is no "beauty" category in the Junior Miss competition. Scholastic records and a judge's interview are 50 percent of the judging. The rest is talent and two stage routines in which the girls are judged on physical fitness and poise.

Luck was on my side in 1968 and I walked away with the title and enough scholarship money to do more than learn how to type. So I went to Stephens College in Columbia, Mo., and studied television, radio and film.

Over the years, I have seen many changes in the Junior Miss program. In 1968, although I didn't carry the scepter the way winners did 10 years before, I was still "Crowned" and wore a sash. Today, the crown is gone, and a medal has replaced the sash. The queen image never fit Junior Miss anyway.

Junior Miss has always sought to recognize excellence in young women. It's the "good news" in our troubled world. And it filled a need during a time when young men were going to college on athletic scholarships but young ladies couldn't afford to do much more then get married.

The college scholarships provided many of us with the opportunity to compete in this world. Junior Miss gave a lot of today's leaders a head start, at a time when it meant the most. There are thousands of local and state winners who are further ahead today. . . thanks to their experiences and the scholarships they received as a result of Junior Miss.

People always want to know if Junior Miss changed my life. Well, after I had my own floats in the Thanksgiving



Debi Faubion, chosen as America's Junior Miss in 1968, is co-anchor of the evening newcast of KMOX-TV in St. Louis. Her journey through the ranks of television news reporting includes stops at Quincey, Ill.; Mobile, Al., and Oklahoma City. Prior to returning to Mobile to cover the 25th Junior Miss national finals, she wrote the following for the St. Louis Post Dispatch TV magazine.

Day Parade and the Rose Bowl Parade . . . appeared in Look, Ingenue, TV Guide, Teen and Co-Ed magazines . . . been a guest on "American Bandstand" and the "Kraft Music Hall" . . . was guest speaker at the National Jaycee Convention . . . was interviewed by media in almost all 50 states and some parts of Europe . . . flown first class . . . and had room service . . . the fantasy became the reality.

Then it was 1969 and someone else's turn to be America's Junior Miss. The fairy tale world was over for me and it was back to stand-by air travel, hamburgers, and reading magazines instead of being in them. I realized Junior Miss had changed my life. . . but it was merely a starting point.

The rest was up to me.



VOLUNTEERS HONORED

Ohio, Florida Win Top Awards; Local Committees, Leader Cited



Mary Cree
Ohio



Mike Holloway
Florida



Debbie Gassoway
Outstanding Chairman

Volunteers in Ohio, Florida, Oregon and 10 individual communities throughout the nation shared major honors in the 1983 Junior Miss awards presentations, held during the national finals activities in Mobile.

The Ohio Junior Miss organization was selected for the "Outstanding State Program" honors of 1982-83; Florida's committee won the "Most Improved State Program" honors, and a former Junior Miss, Debbie Gassoway, spark-plug of the Oregon group, was cited as the "Outstanding State Chairman."

Awards were presented by America's Junior Miss Chairman Norvelle Smith at a luncheon prior to the 26th annual national finals.

Miss Gassoway joins a prestige group as "Outstanding Chairman," individuals who have given dynamic leadership to the organizations they represent. Debbie is the first former Junior Miss selected for the honor. She participated in the Oregon Junior Miss finals of 1967 as the representative of her hometown, Estacada. Debbie is manufacturing production coordinator for Jantzen in Portland, and is working towards her degree in business administration at Portland State. She has served with the Junior Miss committee for three years.

The Ohio organization was honored for all-around excellence, including such achievements as 20% scholarship increases in each of the last three years. Board Vice-President Mary Cree accepted the award in behalf of Chairman Paul Slaughter and 1982-83 State Chairman Tom Fosnaught. It

was noted that the entire host community of Mount Vernon shares in this award.

Florida Chairman Mike Holloway accepted in behalf of Board President Pat Windham and the Florida board. Florida was cited for a successful campaign to gain revitalized community support and scholarship funds.

Special awards of merit were presented to Kansas, Hawaii, Pennsylvania and Montana for consistent excellence over a period of several years.

Also honored were five outstanding local programs and five outstanding local chairmen. These awards, selected from among nominations by state chairmen, were introduced this year, and will be an annual event.

The five Outstanding Local Programs cited were: Plainfield, Indiana — sponsored by Plainfield Jaycees; Oxnard, California — sponsored by Oxnard Noontimers Lions Club; Lakewood Area, New York — sponsored by Lakewood Junior Miss, Inc.; Twin Falls, Idaho — sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Twin Falls; and Dallas County, Alabama — sponsored by Selma Civitan Club.

Awards to the five Outstanding Local Chairmen went to: Dennis Duffin — Lenox, Massachusetts; Bea Brecker — Platteville, Wisconsin; Fred Smith — Johnstown, Pennsylvania; Mary Petrie Morgan — Largo, Florida; and Mary Green and Barbara Brown — Kenai-Soldotna, Alaska.

Smith, Mary Green, Lance Clow (Twin Falls) and Ervin Ward (Dallas County) received the awards in person.



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Hawaii



Rhona Staszko
Hawaii



Rod Woods
Kansas



Warren Zimmerman
Pennsylvania



John Raymond
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California
(Oxnard)



Ray Gordon
New York
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Lance Clow
Twin Falls
Idaho



Ervin Ward
Dallas County
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Dennis Duffin



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Fred Smith
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A salute to America's Junior Miss, Susan Hammett (left), a finalist in Simplicity's 1982 Express Yourself in a Jiffy[®] Sewing Awards Contest, and to the scholarship winners: (center) National Winner, Louisiana's Junior Miss Carla Sowell; (right) 1st Runner-up, Colorado's Junior Miss, Missy Barker; (not shown) 2nd Runner-up, Nebraska's Junior Miss, Lisa Walker. Finalists: Joanie Burton, Florida; Virginia Cha, Maryland; Lori Crever, Minnesota; Tracey Dawn Estes, Texas; Heidi Huelskoetter, Georgia and Marianne Huser, Indiana.

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A whirlwind of activities greets each state Junior Miss on her arrival in Mobile for the two weeks of the national finals — rehearsals, receptions, parties and the opportunity to visit some of the Gulf Coast's most spectacular attractions.



Junior Misses get plenty of exercise on the huge stage at Mobile Municipal Auditorium, rehearsing their Physical Fitness and Posie & Appearance presentations.



Called the "Charm Spot of the South," Bellingrath Gardens is another tourist classic that opens its doors to the Junior Misses, their friends and families.

ADVENTURES IN MOBILE!



Through the years, Dauphin Island and its beaches on the Gulf of Mexico south of Mobile have served up some happy memories for the visitors from throughout the nation.



Junior Misses are welcomed aboard the battleship USS Alabama, now anchored in Mobile Bay as a memorial and tribute to American servicemen and veterans.

Junior Misses are in the spotlight — on stage and off — during their Mobile stay. Below, left to right, are scenes of the arrival and welcome at the airport, meeting new friends in Mobile's Spanish Plaza, watching the firing of an ancient cannon in Fort Conde, the restored historic landmark overlooking the Bay of Mobile.





‘LABOR OF LOVE’

A TENNESSEE HOST FAMILY DISCUSSES 25 YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT WITH JUNIOR MISS

(Editor's Note: The following news feature, published in the Chattanooga Times, presents a seldom-seen aspect of the Junior Miss program, the personal involvement and dedication of a Junior Miss host family. Our sincere thanks to the Times writer Emily McDonald, photographer Phillip Schmidt and to the Times for permission to reprint the story here).

By Emily McDonald

Nancy and Rhea Watkins have helped shepherd the Tennessee Junior Miss Program through bomb threats, ice storms and numerous other incidents, and they view their continued involvement as a labor of love.

"We don't plan to get out of it," Watkins said of the couple's interest in the program. "It gets in your blood," said Mrs. Watkins.

The 26th Tennessee Junior Miss Program is being held this week in Chattanooga, and final competition is scheduled Saturday at the Tivoli Theater.

The Watkinses have been working with the Junior Miss for 24 of its 26 years of existence. This year they are serving as host parents and chairing the host parents committee.

During one program Chattanooga was experiencing a rash of bomb threats, and a threat was phoned to the Tivoli.

Watkins remembers spending about 30 minutes trying to convince an irate and nervous father that the bomb threats were nothing unusual and were meaningless.

"I don't know what it is, but the program always brings on the snow," said Mrs. Watkins. Last year the contestants were stranded at Eastgate Center because of an ice storm and three host parents wrecked their car trying to get there to pick up their girls. Eventually, the girls were taken to nearby motels and spent the night there. Last year's bad weather also prevented some parents from seeing their daughters in the competition.

The Red Bank-Highland Jaycees chartered the program 26 years ago and the Watkinses' involvement with it began when he was a Jaycee. Watkins has served as president of the program and as a judge. Mrs. Watkins has spent a lot of time working backstage. "Working backstage, you begin to see the true selves of the girls," Mrs. Watkins commented. "You see tears, frustrations and whether the girl can get along with others.

"You can't keep girls if you are a judge, but I wanted to keep girls," Mrs. Watkins said. So Watkins retired from judging and the couple began serving as host parents five years ago. They have been hosts for two first runners-up and a second runner-up but have never a program winner. If they ever host a winner, Watkins has promised to take his wife to the national final in Mobile, Ala.

"It's a different side of it," Mrs. Watkins said of the role of a host family. Host families are assigned two girls, and they attempt to create a home-away-from-home atmosphere for their guests. The Watkinses obviously have done that in the years they've been keeping girls. Girls who have been in their home come back and visit and keep in touch with letters and Christmas cards. Contestants are not required to spend the last night of the program in Chattanooga but most of the Watkinses' guests have wanted to stay with them. "That shows you've been a good parent to them," Mrs. Watkins said with pride.

The Watkinses never have any trouble finding host families. In fact, Mrs. Watkins has a waiting list of families wanting to keep girls. If a family keeps a girl one year, Watkins said, no arm-twisting is necessary to get the family to host a girl again. Around the holidays the Watkinses will run into host families at shopping malls or elsewhere, and they are asked, "when are the girls coming?"



Nancy and Rhea Watkins have been involved with the Tennessee Junior Miss Program for 24 years.

AWARD WINNERS OF 1983



Finalists in the 26th America's Junior program are pictured above, left to right; Jane Yedinak, Brenda Baisden, Stephanie Ashmore, Elayne Wells and Debbie Riecks. Top winners in the Kraft Hostess awards competition are shown in the picture at the left, below: Gina Punch, Carla Haag, Elayne and Dori Whittaker. The winners in the Revlon Personal

Style Program are in the picture at the right, below: Stephanie, Linda Burianek, Leslie Byrd and Kay Gile. Tennessee's Julie Vaughn was winner of the Spirit of Junior Miss award, and Linda won both the Simplicity sewing competition and the Hershey Junior Miss Run-for-Fun.



Julie Vaughn



Linda Burianek



SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS WINNER FOR 1983

America's Junior Miss, Stephanie Ashmore, Alabama	\$25,000
First Runner-Up, Debbie Riecks, Colorado	\$10,000
Second Runner-Up, Elayne Wells, Utah	\$7,000
Finalist, Brenda Baisden, Georgia	\$5,000
Finalist, Jane Yedinak, Oregon	\$5,000

Scholastic Achievement, Debbie Riecks, Colorado	\$5,000
Spirit of Junior Miss, Julie Vaughn, Tennessee	\$5,000

Preliminary Awards of \$500 Each

Scholastic Achievement

Renee Sundstrom Missouri
Rhonda Bamburg Louisiana
Bethany Gray, North Carolina
Daelene Douglas, Washington

Physical Fitness

Stephanie Ashmore, Alabama
Brenda Baisden, Georgia
Carla Haag, Mississippi
Cathy Whitworth, Oklahoma

Poise & Appearance

Connie Alley, Kentucky
Maria Camargo, Florida
Stephanie Ashmore, Alabama
Cathy Whitworth, Oklahoma

Creative & Performing Arts

Daelene Douglas, Washington
Bethany Gray, North Carolina
Amy Jo Conrady, Illinois
Maria Camargo, Florida

Spirit of Junior Miss

Julie Vaughn, Tennessee
Rita Vernon, Wisconsin
Dori Whittaker, Idaho
Tammy Lee, Nevada

Funds for the \$5,000 Spirit of Junior Miss award and for the four \$500 preliminary Spirit of Junior Miss awards are provided by Coca-Cola USA.

Funds for the four \$500 preliminary awards in the Physical Fitness division are provided by The Hershey Chocolate Company.

Kraft Hostess Awards

Winner, Gina Punch, Michigan	\$3,000
First Runner-Up, Carla Haag, Mississippi	\$1,500
Second Runner-Up, Elayne Wells, Utah	\$1,000
Third Runner-Up, Dori Whittaker, Idaho	\$750

Finalist - \$100 each - Tammy Broxton, California, Jane Yedinak, Oregon; Jill Bruley, Vermont; Michele Rivard, Maine; Joan Dehlin, North Dakota, and Leslie Byrd, Arkansas.

Revlon Personal Style Awards

Winner, Leslie Byrd, Arkansas	\$3,000
First Runner-Up, Stephanie Ashmore, Alabama	\$1,500
Second Runner-Up, Kay Gile, Kansas	\$1,000
Third Runner-Up, Linda Burianek, New Mexico	\$750

Finalist - \$100 each - Toni Roraff, Alaska; Karen Keefe, Connecticut; Carla Haag, Mississippi; Beth Blouin, South Carolina; Ellen Cassell, Texas; Vicki Hicks, Virginia.

Simplicity Sewing Awards

Winner, Linda Burianek, New Mexico	\$1,000
First Runner-Up, Elayne Wells, Utah	\$750
Second Runner-Up, Rochelle Rosian, Ohio	\$500

Finalists - \$100 each - Leslie Byrd, Arkansas; Gina Punch, Michigan; Jenny Egerer, Nebraska; Stephanie Ashmore, Alabama; Dori Whittaker, Idaho; Beth Gray, North Carolina.

Hershey Run-for-Fun

Winner, Linda Burianek, New Mexico	
First Runner-Up, Peggy Porch, South Dakota	
Third Runner-Up Shelly Elmore, Iowa	

A vacation in Mexico for America's Junior Miss and transportation to and from Mobile for the 52 Junior Miss contestants is provided by Republic Airlines.

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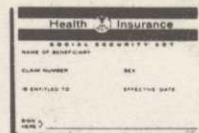
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